

In the Claims:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) A positive electrode active material for secondary lithium and lithium-ion batteries comprising:

at least one electron conducting compound **existing in a first single phase** having the formula $\text{LiM}^1_{x-y}\{\text{A}\}_y\text{O}_z$ wherein M^1 is a transition metal; $\{\text{A}\}$ is represented by the formula $\sum w_i \text{B}_i$ wherein B_i is an element other than M^1 used to replace the transition metal M^1 and w_i is the fractional amount of element B_i in the total dopant combination such that $\sum w_i = 1$; B_i is a cation in $\text{LiM}^1_{x-y}\{\text{A}\}_y\text{O}_z$; $0.95 \leq x \leq 1.05$; $0 \leq y \leq x/2$; and $1.90 \leq z \leq 2.10$; and

at least one electron insulating and lithium ion conducting lithium metal oxide $\text{Li}_2\text{M}^2\text{O}_3$ **existing in a second single phase structurally separate from the first single phase of the compound having the formula $\text{LiM}^1_{x-y}\{\text{A}\}_y\text{O}_z$** , wherein M^2 is at least one tetravalent metal selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr, and Hf.

3. (Original) The positive electrode active material according to Claim 2, wherein the lithium metal oxide is selected from the group consisting of Li_2TiO_3 , Li_2ZrO_3 and mixtures thereof.

4. (Original) The positive electrode active material according to Claim 2, wherein the lithium metal oxide is Li_2TiO_3 .

5. (Previously Presented) The positive electrode active material according to Claim 2, comprising from greater than or equal to 95% by weight and less than 100% by weight of $\text{LiM}^1_{x-y}\{\text{A}\}_y\text{O}_z$ and greater than 0% by weight and less than or equal to 5% by weight of the lithium metal oxide.

6. (Previously Presented) The positive electrode active material according to Claim 2, wherein M^1 is selected from the group consisting of Co, Ni, and Fe.

7. (Previously Presented) The positive electrode active material according to Claim 2, wherein $x=1$ and $z=2$.

8. (Original) The positive electrode active material according to Claim 7, wherein M^1 is Ni.

9. (Original) The positive electrode active material according to Claim 7, wherein M^1 is Co.

10. (Previously Presented) The positive electrode active material according to Claim 2, wherein $y > 0$.

11. (Previously Presented) The positive electrode active material according to Claim 10, wherein the dopant elements B_i are selected from the group consisting of elements having a Pauling's electronegativity not greater than 2.05.

12. (Original) The positive electrode active material according to Claim 10, wherein the dopant elements B_i include two or more dopant cations.

13. (Original) The positive electrode active material according to Claim 12, wherein the average oxidation state E of the dopant elements B_i , as determined using the formula $E = \sum w_i E_i$ wherein E_i is the oxidation state of dopant element B_i in the lithium metal oxide $LiM^1_{x-y}\{A\}_yO_z$, is represented by the relationship $2.5 \leq E \leq 3.5$.

14. (Original) The positive electrode active material according to Claim 13, wherein $2.9 \leq E \leq 3.1$.

15. (Original) The positive electrode active material according to Claim 13, wherein $E=3$.

16. (Original) The positive electrode active material according to Claim 12, wherein at least one of the dopant elements B_i has a different oxidation state than M^1 in $LiM^1_{x-y}\{A\}_yO_z$.

17. (Original) The positive electrode active material according to Claim 12, wherein at least two of the dopant elements B_i have a different oxidation state than M^1 in $LiM^1_{x-y}\{A\}_yO_z$.

18. (Previously Presented) The positive electrode active material according to Claim 2, wherein x , y and z are values that provide a stable lithium metal oxide compound.

19. (Previously Presented) The positive electrode active material according to Claim 2, wherein the metal M^2 is present in $LiM^1_{x-y}\{A\}_yO_z$ as a dopant element B_i .

20. (Original) The positive electrode active material according to Claim 19, wherein the lithium metal oxide has the formula $Li_2M^2O_3$ and M^2 includes Ti.

21. (Previously Presented) The positive electrode active material according to Claim 2, wherein M^1 is Ni or Co, M^2 is Ti, and the dopant elements B_i include Ti^{4+} .

22. (Original) The positive electrode active material according to Claim 21, wherein M^1 is Ni.

23-30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously Presented) The positive electrode active material according to Claim 2, further comprising at least one electron insulating and lithium-ion conducting metal oxide.

32. (Previously Presented) A positive electrode active material for secondary lithium and lithium-ion batteries comprising:

at least one electron conducting compound having the formula $\text{LiM}^1_{x-y}\{\text{A}\}_y\text{O}_z$ wherein M^1 is a transition metal; $\{\text{A}\}$ is represented by the formula $\sum w_i \text{B}_i$ wherein B_i is an element other than M^1 used to replace the transition metal M^1 and w_i is the fractional amount of element B_i in the total dopant combination such that $\sum w_i = 1$; B_i is a cation in $\text{LiM}^1_{x-y}\{\text{A}\}_y\text{O}_z$; $0.95 \leq x \leq 1.05$; $0 \leq y \leq x/2$; and $1.90 \leq z \leq 2.10$;

at least one electron insulating and lithium ion conducting lithium metal oxide $\text{Li}_2\text{M}^2\text{O}_3$, wherein M^2 is at least one tetravalent metal selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr, and Hf; and

at least one electron insulating and lithium-ion conducting metal oxide, wherein the metal oxide has the formula MO_2 wherein M is at least one tetravalent metal selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr, Mo, Si, Ge, Hf, Ru and Te.

33. (Original) The positive electrode active material according to Claim 32, wherein $\text{M}=\text{M}^2$.

34. (Original) The positive electrode active material according to Claim 33, wherein said metal oxide is TiO_2 .

35. (Previously Presented) A positive electrode for a secondary lithium or lithium-ion battery comprising the positive electrode active material of Claim 2, a carbonaceous material and a polymer binder.

36. (Previously Presented) A secondary lithium or lithium-ion battery comprising a positive electrode, a negative electrode and a nonaqueous electrolyte, wherein the positive electrode includes the positive electrode active material of Claim 2.

37. (Previously Presented) A positive electrode active material for secondary lithium and lithium-ion batteries comprising at least one compound of the formula $\text{LiM}^1_{x-y}\{\text{A}\}_y\text{O}_z$

and at least one lithium metal oxide of the formula $\text{Li}_2\text{M}^2\text{O}_3$, wherein M^1 is a transition metal, M^2 is at least one tetravalent metal {A} is represented by the formula $\Sigma w_i \text{B}_i$ wherein B_i is an element other than M^1 used to replace the transition metal M^1 and w_i is the fractional amount of element B_i in the total dopant combination such that $\Sigma w_i = 1$; B_i is a cation in $\text{LiM}^1_{x-y}\{\text{A}\}_y\text{O}_z$; $0.95 \leq x \leq 2.10$; $0 \leq y \leq x/2$; and $1.90 \leq z \leq 4.20$.

38. (Original) The positive electrode active material according to Claim 37, wherein the lithium metal oxide is selected from the group consisting of Li_2TiO_3 , Li_2ZrO_3 and mixtures thereof.

39. (Original) The positive electrode active material according to Claim 38, wherein the lithium metal oxide is Li_2TiO_3 .

40. (Original) The positive electrode active material according to Claim 37, comprising from greater than or equal to 95% by weight and less than 100% by weight of $\text{LiM}^1_{x-y}\{\text{A}\}_y\text{O}_z$ and greater than 0% by weight and less than or equal to 5% by weight of the lithium metal oxide.

41. (Original) The positive electrode active material according to Claim 37, wherein $x=1$ and $z=2$.

42. (Previously Presented) A positive electrode active material for secondary lithium and lithium-ion batteries comprising at least one compound of the formula $\text{LiM}^1_{x-y}\{\text{A}\}_y\text{O}_z$ and at least one lithium metal oxide of the formula $\text{Li}_2\text{M}^2\text{O}_3$, wherein M^1 is a transition metal, M^2 is at least one tetravalent metal {A} is represented by the formula $\Sigma w_i \text{B}_i$ wherein B_i is an element other than M^1 used to replace the transition metal M^1 and w_i is the fractional amount of element B_i in the total dopant combination such that $\Sigma w_i = 1$; B_i is a cation in $\text{LiM}^1_{x-y}\{\text{A}\}_y\text{O}_z$; $0 \leq y \leq 1$; $x=2$; and $z=4$.

43. (Previously Presented) The positive electrode active material according to Claim 37, wherein M^1 is selected from Co, Ni, and Fe.

44. (Canceled)

45. (Original) The positive electrode active material according to Claim 37, wherein $y > 0$.

46. (Previously Presented) The positive electrode active material according to Claim 45, wherein the dopant elements B_i are selected from the group consisting of elements having a Pauling's electronegativity not greater than 2.05.

47. (Original) The positive electrode active material according to Claim 45, wherein the dopant elements B_i includes two or more dopant cations.

48. (Original) The positive electrode active material according to Claim 47, wherein the average oxidation state E of the dopant elements B_i , as determined using the formula $E = \sum w_i E_i$ wherein E_i is the oxidation state of dopant element B_i in the lithium metal oxide $LiM^1_{x-y}\{A\}_yO_z$, equals the oxidation state of the replaced transition metal ion $M^1 \pm 0.5$.

49. (Original) The positive electrode active material according to Claim 48, wherein E equals the oxidation state of the replaced transition metal ion $M^1 \pm 0.1$.

50. (Original) The positive electrode active material according to Claim 48, wherein E equals the oxidation state of the replaced transition metal ion M^1 .

51. (Original) The positive electrode active material according to Claim 47, wherein at least one of the dopant elements B_i has a different oxidation state than M^1 in $LiM^1_{x-y}\{A\}_yO_z$.

52. (Original) The positive electrode active material according to Claim 47, wherein at least two of the dopant elements B_i have a different oxidation state than M^1 in $LiM^1_{x-y}\{A\}_yO_z$.

53. (Original) The positive electrode active material according to Claim 37, wherein x , y and z are values that provide a stable lithium metal oxide compound.

54. (Canceled)

55. (Original) The positive electrode active material according to Claim 54, wherein the lithium metal oxide has the formula $Li_2M^2O_3$ and M^2 includes Ti.

56. (Original) The positive electrode active material according to Claim 37, further comprising at least one electron insulating and lithium ion conducting metal oxide.

57. (Previously Presented) A positive electrode active material for secondary lithium and lithium-ion batteries comprising:

at least one compound of the formula $LiM^1_{x-y}\{A\}_yO_z$ and at least one lithium metal oxide of the formula $Li_2M^2O_3$, wherein M^1 is a transition metal, M^2 is at least one tetravalent metal, $\{A\}$ is represented by the formula $\sum w_i B_i$ wherein B_i is an element other than M^1 used to replace the transition metal M^1 and w_i is the fractional amount of element B_i in the total dopant combination such that $\sum w_i = 1$; B_i is a cation in $LiM^1_{x-y}\{A\}_yO_z$; $0.95 \leq x \leq 2.10$; $0 \leq y \leq x/2$; and $1.90 \leq z \leq 4.20$; and

at least one electron insulating and lithium ion conducting metal oxide, wherein the metal oxide has the formula MO_2 wherein M is at least one tetravalent metal selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr, Mo, Si, Ge, Hf, Ru and Te.

58. (Original) The positive electrode active material according to Claim 57, wherein $M=M^2$.

59. (Original) The positive electrode active material according to Claim 57, wherein said metal oxide is TiO_2 .

60. (Original) A positive electrode for a secondary lithium or lithium-ion battery comprising the positive electrode active material of Claim 37, a carbonaceous material and a binder polymer.

61. (Original) A secondary lithium or lithium-ion battery comprising a positive electrode, a negative electrode and a nonaqueous electrolyte, wherein the positive electrode includes the positive electrode active material of Claim 37.

62. (Previously Presented) A method of preparing a positive electrode active material for secondary lithium and lithium-ion batteries, the positive electrode active material including separate lithium metal oxide phases corresponding to the formulae $\text{LiM}^1_{x-y}\{\text{A}\}_y\text{O}_z$ and $\text{Li}_2\text{M}^2\text{O}_3$ comprising the steps of:

intimately mixing source compounds containing M^1 , Li and optionally $\{\text{A}\}$ in amounts sufficient to provide a stoichiometric relationship between M^1 , Li and $\{\text{A}\}$ corresponding to the formula $\text{LiM}^1_{x-y}\{\text{A}\}_y\text{O}_z$ wherein M^1 is a transition metal, $\{\text{A}\}$ is represented by the formula $\sum w_i \text{B}_i$ wherein B_i is an element other than M^1 used to replace the transition metal M^1 and w_i is the fractional amount of element B_i in the total dopant combination such that $\sum w_i = 1$; B_i is a cation in $\text{LiM}^1_{x-y}\{\text{A}\}_y\text{O}_z$; $0.95 \leq x \leq 2.10$; $0 \leq y \leq x/2$; and $1.90 \leq z \leq 4.20$;

firing the mixture in the presence of oxygen at an initial firing temperature and optionally one or more additional firing temperatures, at least one of said initial firing temperature and optionally one or more additional firing temperatures being the maximum firing temperature and at least one of said initial firing temperature and optionally one or more additional firing temperatures being between about 700°C and about 1000°C , wherein said firing step comprises heating the mixture at a sufficiently slow rate from 500°C to the maximum firing temperature to produce separate lithium metal oxide phases including $\text{LiM}^1_{x-y}\{\text{A}\}_y\text{O}_z$ and $\text{Li}_2\text{M}^2\text{O}_3$, wherein M^2 is one of M^1 and B_i ; and

cooling the $\text{LiM}^1_{x-y}\{\text{A}\}_y\text{O}_z$ and $\text{Li}_2\text{M}^2\text{O}_3$ compounds.

63. (Original) The method according to Claim 62, wherein said firing step comprises heating the mixture from 500°C to the maximum firing temperature at an average rate of less than or equal to about 10°C/min.

64. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 62, wherein said firing step comprises heating the mixture at a sufficiently slow rate from 500°C to the maximum firing temperature to produce separate lithium metal oxide phases including $\text{LiM}^1_{x-y}\{\text{A}\}_y\text{O}_z$, $\text{Li}_2\text{M}^2\text{O}_3$ and M^2O_2 , wherein one of M^1 and B_i is M^2 and M^2 is selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr, and Hf.

65-66. (Canceled)

67. (Original) The method according to Claim 62, wherein said mixing step comprises dry mixing the source compounds.

68. (Original) The method according to Claim 62, wherein said mixing step comprises preparing a solution comprising M^1 and $\{\text{A}\}$ from source compounds comprising M^1 and $\{\text{A}\}$, precipitating the M^1 and $\{\text{A}\}$ out of solution to produce an intimately mixed hydroxide and blending the mixed hydroxide with a lithium source compound.

69. (Original) The method according to Claim 62, wherein said firing step comprises firing the mixture at a partial pressure of oxygen of at least 20 kPa.

70-71. (Canceled)

72. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 62, wherein said firing step comprises heating the mixture at a sufficiently slow rate from 500°C to the maximum firing temperature to produce separate lithium metal oxide phases including $\text{LiM}^1_{x-y}\{\text{A}\}_y\text{O}_z$

and $\text{Li}_2\text{M}^2\text{O}_3$ such that the lithium metal oxide phases include greater than or equal to 95% by weight and less than 100% by weight of $\text{LiM}^1_{x-y}\{\text{A}\}_y\text{O}_z$ and greater than 0% by weight and less than or equal to 5% by weight of $\text{Li}_2\text{M}^2\text{O}_3$.

73. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 62, wherein said mixing step comprises mixing source compounds containing a transition metal M^1 selected from the group consisting of Co, Ni, and Fe.

74. (Canceled)

75. (Original) The method according to Claim 62, wherein said mixing step comprises mixing source compounds including dopant elements B_i such that $y > 0$.

76. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 75, wherein said mixing step comprises mixing source compounds including dopant elements B_i selected from the group consisting of elements having a Pauling's electronegativity not greater than 2.05.

77. (Original) The method according to Claim 75, wherein said mixing step comprises mixing source compounds including two or more dopant elements B_i

78. (Original) The method according to Claim 77, wherein said mixing step comprises mixing source compounds wherein the average oxidation state E of the dopant elements B_i , as determined using the formula $E = \sum w_i E_i$ wherein E_i is the oxidation state of dopant element B_i in the lithium metal oxide $\text{LiM}^1_{x-y}\{\text{A}\}_y\text{O}_z$, equals the oxidation state of the replaced transition metal ion $\text{M}^1 \pm 0.5$.

79. (Original) The method according to Claim 77, wherein said mixing step comprises mixing source compounds wherein the average oxidation state E of the dopant elements B_i , as determined using the formula $E = \sum w_i E_i$ wherein E_i is the oxidation state of

dopant element B_i in the lithium metal oxide $\text{LiM}^1_{x-y}\{\text{A}\}_y\text{O}_z$, equals the oxidation state of the replaced transition metal ion $\text{M}^1 \pm 0.1$.

80. (Original) The method according to Claim 77, wherein said mixing step comprises mixing source compounds wherein the average oxidation state E of the dopant elements B_i , as determined using the formula $E = \sum w_i E_i$ wherein E_i is the oxidation state of dopant element B_i in the lithium metal oxide $\text{LiM}^1_{x-y}\{\text{A}\}_y\text{O}_z$, equals the oxidation state of the replaced transition metal ion M^1 .

81. (Original) The method according to Claim 77, wherein said mixing step comprises mixing source compounds wherein at least one of the dopant elements B_i has a different oxidation state than M^1 in $\text{LiM}^1_{x-y}\{\text{A}\}_y\text{O}_z$.

82. (Original) The method according to Claim 77, wherein said mixing step comprises mixing source compounds wherein at least two of the dopant elements B_i has a different oxidation state than M^1 in $\text{LiM}^1_{x-y}\{\text{A}\}_y\text{O}_z$.

83. (Original) The method according to Claim 77, wherein said mixing step comprises mixing source compounds in amounts sufficient to provide values for x , y and z that provide a stable metal oxide compound.

84. (Original) The method according to Claim 62, wherein said mixing step comprises mixing the source compounds in amounts sufficient to produce a $\text{LiM}^1_{x-y}\{\text{A}\}_y\text{O}_z$ compound wherein $x=1$ and $z=2$.

85. (Original) The method according to Claim 84, wherein said mixing step comprises mixing source compounds containing Ni or Co as the transition metal M^1 .

86. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 85, wherein said mixing step comprises mixing source compounds containing Ti^{4+} as a dopant element B_i .

87. (Original) The method according to Claim 86, wherein said mixing step comprises mixing source compounds containing Ni as the transition metal M^1 .

88-89. (Canceled)

90. (Original) The method according to Claim 85, wherein said mixing step comprises mixing source compounds containing Co as the transition metal M^1 .

91. (Original) The method according to Claim 62, wherein said mixing step comprises mixing source compounds containing Li, Ni, Co, M^3 and M^4 in amounts sufficient to provide a stoichiometric relationship between Li, Ni, Co, M^3 and M^4 corresponding to the formula $LiNi_{1-y}Co_aM^3_bM^4_cO_2$ wherein M^3 is selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr, and combinations thereof; M^4 is selected from the group consisting of Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba, and combinations thereof; M^2 is M^3 ; $y=a+b+c$, $0 < y \leq 0.5$; $0 < a < 0.5$; $0 < b \leq 0.15$; and $0 < c \leq 0.15$.

92. (Original) The method according to Claim 62, wherein said mixing step comprises mixing the source compounds in amounts sufficient to produce a $LiM^1_{x-y}\{A\}_yO_z$ compound wherein $x=2$ and $z=4$.

93. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 62, wherein said cooling step comprises cooling the $LiM^1_{x-y}\{A\}_yO_z$ and $Li_2M^2O_3$ compounds at a rate of greater than or equal to about $0.5^\circ\text{C}/\text{min}$ and less than or equal to about $140^\circ\text{C}/\text{min}$.

94. (Original) The method according to Claim 62, wherein said mixing step comprises mixing source compounds such that excess of the source compound containing lithium is provided in the mixture.

95. (Previously Presented) A method of preparing a positive electrode active material for secondary lithium and lithium-ion batteries, the positive electrode active material including separate lithium metal oxide phases corresponding to the formulae $\text{LiNi}_{1-y}\text{Co}_a\text{M}^3_b\text{M}^4_c\text{O}_2$ and $\text{Li}_2\text{M}^3\text{O}_3$ comprising the steps of:

intimately mixing source compounds containing Li, Ni, Co, M^3 and M^4 in amounts sufficient to provide a stoichiometric relationship between Li, Ni, Co, M^3 and M^4 corresponding to the formula $\text{LiNi}_{1-y}\text{Co}_a\text{M}^3_b\text{M}^4_c\text{O}_2$ wherein M^3 is selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr and combinations thereof; M^4 is selected from the group consisting of Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba, and combinations thereof; $y=a+b+c$, $0 < y \leq 0.5$; $0 < a < 0.5$; $0 < b \leq 0.15$; and $0 < c \leq 0.15$;

firing the mixture in the presence of oxygen at an initial firing temperature and optionally one or more additional firing temperatures wherein at least one of the firing temperatures is the maximum firing temperature and wherein at least one of the firing temperatures is between about 700°C and about 1000°C , said firing step comprising heating the mixture from 500°C to the maximum firing temperature at an average rate of less than or equal to $10^\circ\text{C}/\text{min}$ to produce separate lithium metal oxide phases including $\text{LiNi}_{1-y}\text{Co}_a\text{M}^3_b\text{M}^4_c\text{O}_2$ and $\text{Li}_2\text{M}^3\text{O}_3$; and

cooling the $\text{LiNi}_{1-y}\text{Co}_a\text{M}^3_b\text{M}^4_c\text{O}_2$ and $\text{Li}_2\text{M}^3\text{O}_3$ compounds.

96. (Original) The method according to Claim 95, wherein said mixing step comprises mixing source compounds such that M^3 includes Ti.

97. (Original) The method according to Claim 96, wherein said mixing step comprises mixing source compounds such that M^4 includes Mg.

98. (Previously Presented) A positive electrode active material, comprising:
at least one electron conducting compound having the formula $\text{LiM}^1_{x-y}\{\text{A}\}_y\text{O}_z$ wherein M^1 is a transition metal, $\{\text{A}\}$ is represented by the formula $\sum w_i\text{B}_i$ wherein B_i comprises at least one element having a Pauling's electronegativity not greater than 2.05 and

In re: Gao et al.
Docket No.: 208-6164
Serial No.: 10/040,047
Page 15 of 18

w_i is the fractional amount of element B_i in the total dopant combination such that $\sum w_i = 1$, $0.95 \leq x \leq 1.05$, $0 \leq y \leq x/2$, and $1.90 \leq z \leq 2.10$; and

at least one electron insulating and lithium ion conducting lithium metal oxide of the formula $\text{Li}_2\text{M}^2\text{O}_3$, wherein M^2 is at least one tetravalent metal.